

Level 8

Topics Include:

Figurative Language, Special Vocabularies,
Using Context Clues, Variant Word Forms,
Synonyms/Antonyms, Greek/Latin Roots

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Did you know that we use different kinds of language in different times and places?

A. Directions: The *formal* words in the box are most often used in official documents and reports, literary works, and speeches. Use the dictionary to look up any words you don't know. Then write each word next to the *informal* word with the same meaning.

fatigued	eschew	residence	encounter	converse
heinous	procure	incensed	petulant	inquire

- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| 1. ask _____ | 6. talk _____ |
| 2. tired _____ | 7. hateful _____ |
| 3. home _____ | 8. get _____ |
| 4. avoid _____ | 9. grumpy _____ |
| 5. angry _____ | 10. meet _____ |

B. Directions: Circle a letter to identify the formal word that could replace the **boldface** informal word in each sentence.

- Did you know that kangaroos are **native** to Australia?
 - multitudinous
 - acclimated
 - indigenous
- The spy arranged for a **secret** meeting with his informant.
 - clandestine
 - anonymous
 - pretentious

- Nicole takes great pride in keeping her new car **clean**.
 - immaculate
 - adorned
 - chaste
- The bullies **forced** the younger boy to give them his lunch money.
 - enticed
 - implored
 - coerced



- A **drunk** driver poses a real threat to other vehicles and pedestrians.
 - tipsy
 - intoxicated
 - comatose

ENGLISH VOCABULARIES: FORMAL, INFORMAL, AND SLANG 2

Informal English is the language used in newspapers, television, and almost all of our conversations.

Most people use some slang expressions in casual conversations. While slang is vivid and interesting in speech, it is *not* acceptable in formal or informal writing.

A. Directions: Write a slang expression from the box that has the same meaning as the **boldface** word or words.

creamed dude nuthouse blockhead hitched spiffy busted greenbacks

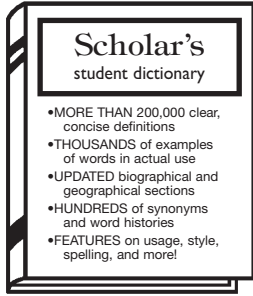
1. I heard that Todd and Lisa got **married** _____ last month.
2. Did you know that Joshua’s cousin was sent to the **insane asylum** _____?
3. Walter is the **guy** _____ I met at wrestling camp.
4. We were surprised that Rita’s house was quite so **elegant** _____.
5. Our team got **badly beaten** _____ in the final game of the tournament.
6. Sooner or later, shoplifters are likely to get **arrested** _____.

B. Directions: Use vowels (a, e, i, o, u) to complete the words in the chart that have the same meaning.

formal	⇔	informal	⇔	slang
1. amiable	⇔	friendly	⇔	<u> c h </u> <u> m m y </u>
2. verbose	⇔	<u> t </u> <u> l k </u> <u> t </u> <u> v </u>	⇔	mouthy
3. <u> _ c c </u> <u> n </u> <u> t r </u> <u> _ c </u>	⇔	oddball	⇔	weirdo
4. intellectual	⇔	bookworm	⇔	<u> _ </u> <u> g g </u> <u> h </u> <u> _ _ </u> <u> d </u>
5. inform	⇔	<u> t </u> <u> t </u> <u> t </u> <u> l </u>	⇔	squeal
6. <u> h </u> <u> _ </u> <u> r </u> <u> _ </u> <u> s </u> <u> s </u>	⇔	pester	⇔	bug

USING THE DICTIONARY 1

What is the best source of information about words? Whether you are on the Internet or in the library, it's definitely the dictionary.



Even abridged (shortened) student dictionaries usually define about 50,000 words. That makes a big book! Here's a trick to make the dictionary easier to use. Think of a dictionary as having three parts, or sections.



Flip the pages and notice that these three sections are fairly equal in size. So if you need to find a certain word, start looking in the appropriate section.

A. Directions: Circle the word that correctly completes each sentence.

1. The word (*brevity / neutral*) is in the second section of the dictionary.
2. The word *theory* is defined in the (*second / third*) section.
3. To look up *colonel*, you would turn to the (*first / second*) section.
4. The more you practice, the easier it will be for you to (*quickly / slowly*) find the word you want!

B. Directions: You know that words defined in the dictionary (*entry words*) are listed in alphabetical order. Practice your dictionary skills by listing the following words in alphabetical order.

lustrous	capacity	nymph	roster	thesis	rigor	exemption
congratulations	phylum	condemn	lithe	jargon	optic	gravitate
victorious	purport	italic	gird	latitude	opaque	excursion

- | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 8. _____ | 15. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 9. _____ | 16. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 10. _____ | 17. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 11. _____ | 18. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 12. _____ | 19. _____ |
| 6. _____ | 13. _____ | 20. _____ |
| 7. _____ | 14. _____ | 21. _____ |

USING THE DICTIONARY 2

Understanding the different parts of a dictionary is an important step toward building a better vocabulary.

Notice the guide words at the top of each regular page in the dictionary. The guide word on the left is the first entry on the page. The word on the right is the last entry.

<p>A</p> <p style="text-align: center;">flatcar</p> <p style="font-size: small;">flatcar ~~~~~ fleck ~~~~~</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">flesh</p> <p style="font-size: small;">~~~~~</p>
<p>B</p> <p style="text-align: center;">mow</p> <p style="font-size: small;">mow ~~~~~ mugwump ~~~~~</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">mulch</p> <p style="font-size: small;">~~~~~</p>

A. Directions: Cross out the words that would *not* be defined on page A (as shown above). Then use your imagination—or check a dictionary—to list three words that **would** appear on that page.

1. *flea* *falter* *flit* *flavor* *fledgling* *flout*
2. _____, _____, _____

B. Directions: Look at the guide words at the top of page B above. Then circle the word that correctly completes each sentence.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1. Words that fall (between / outside) the guide words in the alphabet will appear on that page.</p> <p>2. If you're looking for the word <i>motto</i>, you will have to turn (back / forward) a page or two.</p> | <p>3. You (will / will not) find the word <i>mugwump</i> on page B.</p> <p>4. You can probably find the word <i>mullet</i> on the page just (before / after) page B.</p> |
|--|--|

C. Directions: Circle the words that would appear on each page shown below.

peony	perch
pepsin	pepperoni
perennial	perdition
percale	perfunctory
pentagon	penurious

devil	diagnose
devious	deviate
dialect	diameter
dewlap	detrimental
diabetes	diabolic

INFORMATION IN A DICTIONARY ENTRY 1

A dictionary entry provides more than just the word's definition.

A dictionary entry lists inflected forms of the entry word. These forms include:

plurals
superlatives

woman / women
fungus / fungi

verb tenses

buy / bought / buying
have / had / having

comparatives and

handy / handier / handiest
good / better / best

A. Directions: Check a dictionary if you need help spelling the *plural* of each word below.

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. bully _____ | 4. louse _____ |
| 2. echo _____ | 5. alumnus _____ |
| 3. solo _____ | 6. child _____ |

B. Directions: Check a dictionary if you need help completing the chart of *verb tenses*.

present tense		past tense		participle
1. _____	↔	rose	↔	rising
2. say	↔	_____	↔	saying
3. begin	↔	began	↔	_____
4. _____	↔	thought	↔	thinking

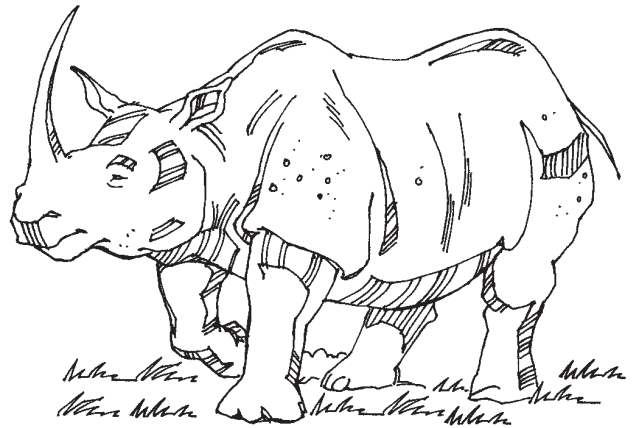
C. Directions: Check a dictionary if you need help identifying the *comparative* and *superlative* forms of each entry word. Circle the word or words that correctly complete(s) each sentence.

- The superlative form of *beautiful* is (beautiful / most beautiful).
- The comparative form of *gory* is (gorier / more gory).
- The superlative form of *many* is (more / most).
- The comparative form of *serious* is (more serious / seriouser).

INFORMATION IN A DICTIONARY ENTRY 2

A. Directions: Some words have more than one acceptable spelling. Remember that the preferred spelling is always listed *first* in a dictionary entry. Complete the word pairs below with either the preferred spelling or its less common alternate.

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. mustache / _____ | 6. _____ / cagy |
| 2. fulfill / _____ | 7. coconut / _____ |
| 3. _____ / jeweller | 8. abridgment / _____ |
| 4. _____ / quintette | |
| 5. cactuses / _____ | |

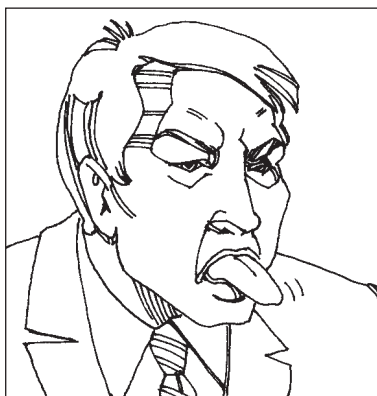


B. Directions: Some dictionaries include a word's *etymology*, or original source, before or after its definition. Draw a line to match each word with its origin.

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| 1. orange | a. from a Latin word meaning “to creep” |
| 2. rhinoceros | b. from the Latin noun meaning “tongue” |
| 3. racket | c. from <i>naranja</i> , the Spanish name for this fruit |
| 4. serpent | d. from two Greek words meaning “hose” and “horn” |
| 5. poinsettia | e. from an Arabic word meaning “palm of the hand” |
| 6. language | f. from <i>Poinsett</i> , the name of a U.S. ambassador to Mexico in the 1800s, who discovered the plant there |
| 7. safari | g. from an Arabic word meaning “to make a journey” |

DENOTATION AND CONNOTATION 1

A word's denotation is its literal meaning—the definition found in a dictionary. Then there's connotation. . . .



A word's *connotation* is its implied meaning. Connotation arises from the ideas, emotions, and experiences associated with the word. Two words with nearly the same denotation may have quite different connotations.

example:

childish behavior (negative connotation suggesting inappropriate lack of maturity)

childlike delight (positive connotation suggesting natural purity and innocence)



A. Directions: Write **P** for positive or **N** for negative next to each word below.

- | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| 1. _____ shifty | 5. _____ hoax | 9. _____ rattletrap |
| 2. _____ dignified | 6. _____ svelte | 10. _____ deadwood |
| 3. _____ delicate | 7. _____ sturdy | 11. _____ undertaker |
| 4. _____ frail | 8. _____ showy | 12. _____ negotiate |

B. Directions: Words in the box are synonyms (with different connotations) of the **boldface** words. Write the matching word from the box next to each **boldface** word below. Hint: You will not use all the words.

conspicuous	cunning	imply	villain	distort	suggest
investigate	fascinated	alibi	squander	struggle	stalk

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. follow / _____ | 6. apparent / _____ |
| 2. spend / _____ | 7. try / _____ |
| 3. interested / _____ | 8. search / _____ |
| 4. excuse / _____ | 9. bend / _____ |
| 5. clever / _____ | 10. rascal / _____ |

DENOTATION AND CONNOTATION 2

Good communicators make sure the words they use don't carry any "hidden baggage."

People use euphemisms to replace words that are thought to be too strong or unpleasant.
example: remains instead of corpse

Dysphemisms are harsher words deliberately used to replace neutral words.
example: hustler instead of salesperson

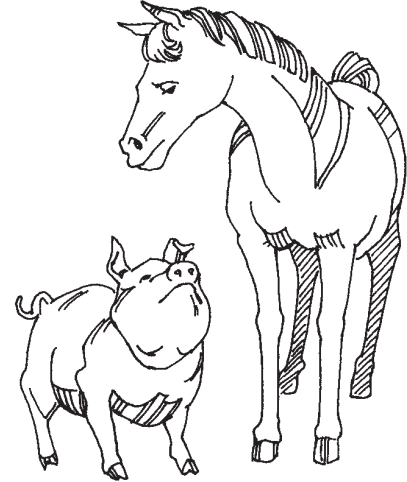
Directions: Complete the chart below with the euphemisms, dysphemisms, or neutral words in the word list. Hint: You will *not* use all the words.

euphemism	neutral word	dysphemism	word list
1. slender	thin	_____	economical
2. sustenance	_____	grub	eat
3. _____	fire	bounce	observe
4. petite	short	_____	jailbird
5. expire	_____	croak	frivolous
6. _____	notice	gawk	enormous
7. offender	convict	_____	food
8. thrifty	_____	tightfisted	die
9. _____	playful	goofy	scrawny
10. houseguest	_____	freeloader	visitor
11. scholar	bookworm	_____	inquisitive
12. _____	curious	nosy	runty
13. consume	_____	devour	terminate
			rabblrouser
			heretic
			corny
			grind
			gullible

JUST FOR FUN: DICTIONARY CHALLENGE 1

Your friends and family will be amazed when you use some of these words in your conversation.

Directions: To answer the questions, study the dictionary definitions of the **boldface** words.



1. Would the words **sorrel**, **piebald**, or **roan** be used to describe a **porcine** or an **equine** animal? Explain your answer.

2. In what countries would you find **Karoo** and **Karnak**?

3. Would people be complimented on their **turpitude** or their **rectitude**? Why?

4. Would it be a good idea to slather **mayonnaise** on your **bouillabaisse**? Why or why not?

5. What kind of error might turn a **virtuoso**'s cheeks **vermilion**?

6. Who would make the best stand-up comedian—a **somnambulist** or a **satirist**? Explain your answer.

7. Which might be tamed—a **turret**, a **garret**, or a **ferret**? What do the other two words mean?

JUST FOR FUN: DICTIONARY CHALLENGE 2

Directions: To answer the questions, study the dictionary definitions of the **boldface** words.

1. What does a **troglydte** have in common with a **bat**?

2. Where would you find an **epitaph** for an **epicure**? What might the epitaph say?



3. In what country would you be likely to eat **pizza** on a **piazza**? Would you be outdoors or indoors?

4. Are **polyandrists** and **polygynists** guilty of **polygamy**? Explain your answer.

5. Which would you hire to provide entertainment at a children’s party—a **prestidigitator** or a **mountebank**? Explain why.

6. Is a **curmudgeon** more likely to be **curt** or **courteous**? Explain your reasoning.

7. Who were the **Kansa** and the **Karok**? Where did they live?

COMMON CORE

SKILLS & STRATEGIES FOR VOCABULARY

Level 3

Level 4

Level 5

Level 6

Level 7

Level 8